

STRIVE NOT ABOUT WORDS

2 Tim 2:14-16

Before God will bless a person he must be willing to suffer

Good soldier? Endure hardness.

Good athlete? Strive for mastery

Good Farmer? Labor/toil.

Wider picture:

1. Want abundant life. Must die
2. Want victory? If we suffer with Him...
3. Deny Him... He will deny us. He always follows through with Word.

2 Timothy 2:14 *Of these things put them in remembrance, Remind your people of these facts.*

... charging them before the Lord. speaking solemnly realizing God is watching.

Timothy, you are accountable to God for doing something very important. Speak very plainly, seriously and strongly to your folks about a certain matter.

... that they strive not about words to no profit,

Don't get involved in controversy over words which have nothing to do with realities of Christian life.

Useless word battles

Public debates with heretics.

Promoting own ideas by stressing certain word meaning.

Words to no profit Don't' really count for eternity.

Don't allow yourself or your people to get involved arguing over issues that don't count.

Hend: *Don't get sidetracked into devices by ways of futile debates.*

1 Timothy 1:4, 7

Profane and old wives' fables: Ironsides, *Belonging to the category of silly superstitions which old women sometimes try to palm off to their neighbors or grandchildren.*

Kind of teachings that silly people would discuss, not dedicated men and women of the Word.

1 Timothy 1:6

Vain jangling: purposeless talk.

False prophets: 1 Timothy 6:4

Has morbid fondness for controversy and disputes and strifes about words...

1 Timothy 6:20

... but to the subverting of the hearers.

Subvert: to turn over, turn aside, overthrow, throw down.

Demoralizes the listeners.

Witch-hunt mentality

Ironsides: *It is so easy to become occupied with minor details in regard to the Christian message, which, after all, have nothing to do with the great fundamental issues. How*

many there are who become occupied with some of these side-issues, stressing them on every occasion, and even dividing the people of God because of them, instead of placing the emphasis on the great central truths of the Word which are so tremendously important.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study: to make haste; to exert one's self, endeavor, give diligence.

Present tense: be in habit of

Show thyself approved unto God. Present the quality of your exhibit.

Approved: to put to the test for the purpose of approving, and finding that the person or thing meets the specifications laid down.

Reason for witch-hunt mentality--never learned habit of diligence

A workman: toiler, laborer; willing to exert physical or mental effort

Ashamed: humiliated, embarrassed, guilty.

Reason: work is substandard

Rightly dividing the Word of Truth. To expound soundly, cut it straight

Stott: *To be accurate on the one hand and plain on the other in our exposition....Treat it rightly, not abridging it, not handling it as a charlatan, not making it a matter of wordy strife.*

Greatest thing you can do for your Pastor: Guard his study time.

Process:

1. Grammatical
2. Synthetical (context)
3. Historical
4. Literal
5. Practical

2 Timothy 2:16 Avoid, steer clear of all foolish discussions...which lead people into more ungodliness.

Profane: permitted to be trodden; not sacred, unhallowed.

Vain: without cause; empty.

Babblings: baby-talk, empty sounds, discussion on useless subjects.

Shun: avoid, not waste time with it. Not worthy of least consideration

Hen: *Unholy, useless disputes about fictitious genealogical histories and hair-splitting about niceties in the laws of Moses.*

... for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

Increase: advance, proceed.

Ungodliness...no reverence toward God...attitude.

So What?

1. Be a student of the Word.
2. Rightly divide the Word.
3. Not get caught up in things that don't count for eternity.